

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00892 170952Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3886
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP EAGR EFIN SU

SUBJECT: SUDAN COTTON SALES

REF: 76 KHARTOUM 1028

1. SUDANESE COTTON MARKET HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY ACTIVE DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SALES. ACCORDING TO COTTON PUBLIC CORP. (CPC) OFFICIALS, SALES NOW ABOUT 800,000 BALES -- LONG STAPLE: 560,000 BALES, MEDIUM AND SHORT STAPLE: 220,000 BALES. THESE SALES INCLUDE 400,000 BALES OF CARRY-OVER STOCKS. PRACTICALLY ALL CARRY-OVER STOCKS AND MOST OF CURRENT CROP NOW SOLD. WITH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF 80,000 BALES, CARRY-OVER INTO 1978 MAY BE ONLY ABOUT 200,000 BALES. ESTIMATED VALUE OF THIS YEAR'S SALES IS 375 MILLION US DOLLARS, SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE 1976 EXPORT EARNINGS OF 270 MILLION US DOLLARS.

2. ALL CURRENT SALES HAVE BEEN FOR HARD CURRENCY.

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REPORTEDLY, SEVERAL US FIRMS HAVE MADE PURCHASES.

3. DESPITE CONTINUING MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS, COOLER THAN NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND A SLIGHT REDUCTION IN ACREAGE, LONG-STAPLE COTTON PRODUCTION FOR 76/77 APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED FROM 75/76S DISASTROUSLY LOW LEVEL. LONG STAPLE PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE

OVER 500,000 BALES FROM 540,000 FEDDANS (ONE FEDDAN
EQUALS 1.038 ACRES). MEDIUM AND SHORT STAPLE PRODUCTION
WILL BE 300,000 BALES FROM 350,000 FEDDANS.

4. COMMENT: THESE SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER EXPORT EARNINGS
ARE BASED ON CONTINUED HIGH PRICES, TIGHT SUPPLIES AND
GOOD MARKETING POLICIES. THEY PROBABLY WILL EASE
SUDAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS SOMEWHAT BUT WILL
NOT COVER DEFICITS CAUSED BY INCREASED CAPITAL GOODS
IMPORTS. THE SALE OF ALL STOCKS AND MAJORITY OF CURRENT
CROP ALSO WILL LEAVE SUDAN IN A SHORT SUPPLY SITUATION
NEXT YEAR, PARTICULARLY IF AS PLANNED THEY CONTINUE TO
REDUCE LONG STAPLE ACREAGE. HOWEVER, NEW AREAS ARE
PLANNED FOR MEDIUM STAPLE PRODUCTION.
BREWER

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